

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 031789

42

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

66609

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: P. JOHNSON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: P. JOHNSON

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION NSC/E, S/S

----- 126310

O 121445Z FEB 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 031789

TOSEC 111

FOLLOWING REPEAT FROM LISBON 801 ACTION SENT WASHINGTON NATO
INFO BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN LONDON MADRID MOSCOW OSLOW
PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM THE HAGUE VIENNA LOURENCO MARQUES
LUANDA USUN NEW YORK RUEKJCS/DIA RUCBSAA/CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE
BRUSSELS BEL ZEN/AMCONSUL OPORTO ZEN/AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
SECSTATE DATED 2/11/75;

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 801

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: CONSTA GOMES ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT: COMMENT

REF: (A) LISBON 793; (B) LISBON 796 (NOTAL); (C) USNATO 710

1. BESIDES ANNOUNCING APRIL 12 DATE FOR ELECTIONS TO
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, COSTA GOMES FEB 10 SPEECH WAS A STATE
OF THE UNION ADDRESS. HE DREW UP A BALANCE SHEET OF PAST NINE
MONTHS AND SET FORTH MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD CONCEPTS WHICH GOP
HOPES WILL GUIDE PARTY ACTIVITIES IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. IT
WAS A CAREFULLY-DRAFTED ADDRESS WHICH WILL HEARTEN MODERATES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 031789

WHILE NOT ALIENATING ANY OF THE COALITION PARTIES NOW IN THE

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

2. FOREIGN POLICY AND AZORES: DISPLAYING SENSITIVITY TO OFT-REPEATED EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN EMANATING FROM FOREIGNERS, COSTA GOMES LINKED UNNAMED "FOREIGN STATESMEN" WHO WARN OF THE EXCESSIVE ACCELERATION OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS TO "IDEALISTS" WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT SLOW PACE OF REVOLUTION. HE CLAIMED THAT THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS HAD AVERTED EXPLOITATION OF PORTUGAL'S DOMESTIC SITUATION, WITHOUT ELABORATION ON THIS POINT.

3. AZORES AGREEMENT WAS LINKED WITH CONCORDAT IN NEUTRAL CONTEXT, LABELING THEM "FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE NEAR FUTURE." (IN LIGHT OF GOP INERTIA ON AZORES, WE READ THIS AS A PERSONAL OVERTURE TO THE U.S. THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH COSTA GOMES' SYMBOLIC GESTURE AT TIME AMBASSADOR PRESENTED CREDENTIALS.)

4. PLURALIST DEMOCRACY: COSTA GOMES REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR PLURALIST DEMOCRACY, AND NEED TO AVOID AUTOCRATIC POWER AND DICTATORSHIPS. IN PORTUGUESE CONTEXT, THIS IS AN OBLIQUE -- BUT READILY UNDERSTANDABLE -- SWIPE AT THE EXTREME LEFT, SINCE ONLY DICTATORSHIP IN PAST HAS COME FROM RIGHT.

5. EXTREMISTS LEFT AND RIGHT: COSTA GOMES SEVERELY CRITICIZED EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT, THEREBY LINKING THEM BOTH AS ENEMIES OF PORTUGAL'S FUTURE. WITHOUT MENTIONING ANY POLITICAL PARTY BY NAME, HE CASTIGATED "PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARY OPPORTUNISM," "PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURES," "EXTREMIST CURRENTS OF THOUGHT BY FASCISTS OR PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARIES," "SELLERS OF ILLUSIONS...CULTIVATORS OF HATE AND VIOLENCE...BALEFUL MANIPULATORS OF PUBLIC OPINION." IN INDIRECT BUT CLEAR ALLUSION TO EXTREME LEFT COSTA GOMES SAID: "LET US REJECT PARTIES OR DOCTRINES THAT OFFER VIOLENCE AND HATE IN THE PRESENT IN EXCHANGE FOR A SUPPOSED FUTURE PARADISE TO WHICH SUCH A PATH WOULD NEVER LEAD."

6. AFM AND MILITARY: REFERENCES TO THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WERE FEW, BUT INVARIABLY POSITIVE AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED. GUIDING ROLE OF AFM WAS MENTIONED IN GENERAL TERMS, AGAIN AS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 031789

EXPECTED.

7. ADVICE TO POLITICAL PARTIES: TURNING TO THE "AUTHENTIC PARTIES" REPRESENTING "GENUINE SECTORS OF THE PEOPLE," COSTA GOMES RECOMMENDED THAT THEY STRESS UNITY AND LEAVE DOCTRINAL HAIR-SPLITTING FOR FUTURE. THIS WILL PROBABLY TURN OUT TO BE A CHIMERICAL HOPE ON HIS PART, PARTICULARLY IN THE HEAT OF AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN.8&..

8. REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC: SPEECH WAS LARDED WITH FASHIONABLY LEFT-WING PHRASEOLOGY, NOW COMMON CURRENCY HERE. COSTA GOMES CLAIMED, INTER ALIA, THAT GOP HAD INTRODUCED AGRARIAN REFORM WHICH WILL COME AS A SURPRISE TO PORTUGUESE FARM WORKERS. HE ALSO TOOK A FEW MILD JABS AT "CAPITALIST INTERESTS" WITHOUT, CRITICIZING PROFITS OR THE PROFIT-MOTIVE.

9. POPULAR DEMOCRATIC LEADER FRANCISCO BALSIMAO WELCOMED COSTA GOMES ADDRESS IN DISCUSSION WITH US FEB 11. BALSIMAO TERMED IT AN EXCELLENT ADDRES, WHICH SAID THINGS THAT NEEDED SAYING. AT THE SAME TIME HE NOTED QUITE CORRECTLY THAT THE TRUE TEST OF THE AFM'S INTENTIONS WOULD COME DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHICH IS NOW BEGINNING.

10. USNATO MAY DRAW ON ABOVE AS DESIRED AT FEB 11 PERMREPS MEETING ON PORTUGAL.
CARLUCCI UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMOCRACY, SPEECHES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, TOSEC
111
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE031789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: P. JOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750051-0077
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750249/aaaabryy.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 793, 75 LISBON 796, 75 (NOTA USNATO 710
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSTA GOMES ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT: COMMENT
TAGS: PINT, PO, (GOMES, COSTA)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006